Here is how to change your handle if you already have pidgin and your chat rooms set up.
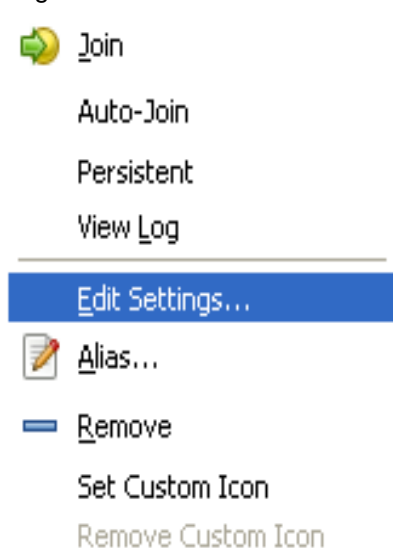
Many of you have already set up Pidgin and your chat rooms. To that I say thank you. We here at the National Weather Service would like to make chat the most productive and useful experience out there. With that said when a message is typed in to us, it would be very beneficial to know exactly who the chat is coming from and where you are located. This not only helps us locate you, but also get the information back to you quickly. Many of you already have nice handles and many thanks to you.

Below will be a quick method to change the handle to the preferred method. (It needs to be noted that the latest updates of Pidgin make it much easier to change handles, so if you use Pidgin you may want to download the latest version. It can be found here http://www.pidgin.im)

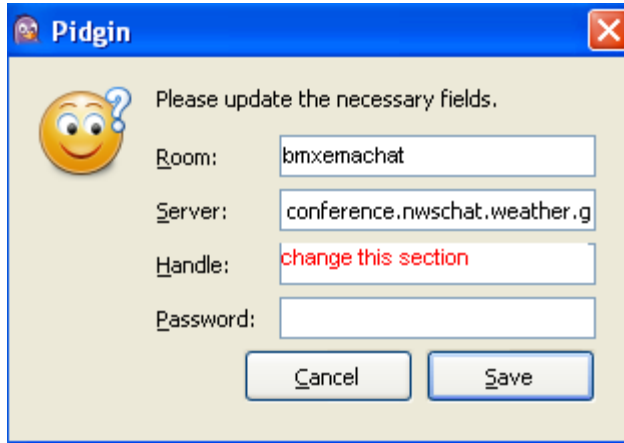This change in handles can be done in two ways.

1. More Efficient
    a. In your buddy list
    b. Right Click in bmxchat and select Edit Settings, a new window will pop up.

   (If you cannot see the "EDIT SETTINGS" sections then you have an older version of pidgin and will need to use the MORE DIRECT way below or install the newest version of Pidgin.

    c. For current ALERT members on chat change the ROOM
    From "bmxchat" to "bmxemachat" (The ema chat room will be used for all incoming responses to from our ems, first responders and hams.

d. Change the handle (See above section for methods)

    i. For Amateur Radio
1. Delete you handle and enter according to description below:
2. Handle: **county-al-ham id-lastname**" (if you are an ALERT member, please include this in the handle.
   a. For example, shelby-al-k4nws-aaron
   b. ALERT members, shelby-al-k4nws-alert-aaron
3. Hit Save
4. Double click bmxemachat and enter chat

e. Current ALERT members will need to delete the" bmxalertchat" as this chatroom is no longer available.
f. Also ALERT members there is no need to enter reports in "bmxchat" any more instead please use "bmxemachat"

2. Most Direct
   a. Delete you current chatroom "bmxchat"
   b. Add new chatroom (bmxemachat), with the new preferred handle (see above section for methods)
   c. Current ALERT members will need to delete the" bmxalertchat" as this chatroom is no longer available.